

## Message Text

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14

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 200150Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7512

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T RANGOON 2974

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN, BM, XC

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SEA APPEAL TO NVN

REF: BANGKOK 19403

1. SUMMARY: FOR REASONS DETAILED BELOW, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT GUB WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED APPEAL TO NVN AS SET FORTH IN REFTTEL. HOWEVER, WE HAVE OBSERVED IN BURMA AS WELL AS IN OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES PERCEPTIBLE MOVES POINTING TOWARDS "A DURABLE PEACE" WHICH THE GUB BELIEVES MUST BE ESTABLISHED IN THE ENTIRE REGION, AND WE THINK IT MIGHT BE TIMELY TO GIVE THOUGHT TO HOW OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, SUCH AS MALAYSIA, MIGHT ENCOURAGE BURMA TO JOIN IN A MEETING FROM WHICH QUIET PRESSURES FOR PEACE IN INDOCHINA MIGHT EMERGE. END SUMMARY.

2. WHATEVER THE INTRINSIC MERIT OF THE SUBJECT PROPOSAL, THIS POST BELIEVES THAT PROSPECTS OF GUB BEING PERSUADED BY ANY OF ITS SEA NEIGHBORS OR FRIENDS TO JOIN IN SUCH AN APPEAL TO HANOI ARE SO SLIM AS TO BE NEGLIGIBLE. GIVEN THE GUB'S RIGID ADHERENCE  
SECRET

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TO ITS NON-ALIGNED POLICY, IT WOULD HARDLY WISH TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF IN A MOVE TO POINT BLAME AT HANOI. THIS RELUCTANCE WOULD BE HEIGHTENED BY FACT THAT NORTH VIET NAM, AS WELL AS SOUTH VIET NAM, IS REPRESENTED IN RANGOON BY CONSULATE GENERAL, AND GUB WOULD

NOT FIND IT FITTING TO APPEAL TO ONLY ONE SIDE IN CONFLICT.

3. THE TIME FACTOR ALSO MITIGATES AGAINST THE PROPOSAL. EVEN IF GUB PROVED RESPONSIVE, IT IS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL THAT FAVORABLE GUB DECISION COULD BE OBTAINED IN SHORT SPACE OF TWO WEEKS.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, POSSIBLY TIME IS GRADUALLY BECOMING RIPE FOR INITIATIVE BY SOME SEA NATION ALONG LINES GUB HAS ITSELF SUGGESTED, FIRST IN JANUARY 26 STATEMENT ON VIET NAM CEASE-FIRE: "DURABLE PEACE NEEDS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE ENTIRE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION, AND . . . THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT HAS ARRIVED FOR NATIONS OF THE REGION TO COME TOGETHER TO WORK OUT THE MEANS TO THAT END." THIS POSITION WAS REITERATED LATER BY NE WIN DURING VISIT TO INDONESIA IN JUNE: "IT IS NECESSARY TO STRIVE FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN OUR OWN REGION. WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES ARE FAVORABLE IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR NATIONS OF THE REGION TO GET TOGETHER AND CONFER ON WAYS AND MEANS OF HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE."

5. THE BURMESE PROPOSAL IS OF COURSE EXCEEDINGLY IMPRECISE: IT AMOUNTS TO A SUGGESTION THAT AN INDEFINITE GROUP OF COUNTRIES SHOULD GET TOGETHER IN AN UNDEFINED WAYY AT AN UNKNOWN TIME WITH

AN EXTREMELY VAGUE PURPOSE. AT SAME TIME, THE VERY IMPRECISION OF GUB SUGGESTION, AND THE FACT THAT IT IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANY PARTY OR COUCHED IN TERMS WHICH ANYONE COULD REGARD AS HOSTILE, MAY GIVE IT SOME HOPE FOR PRODUCING USEFUL RESULTS.

6. SOME OTHER SE ASIAN COUNTRY (MALAYSIA WOULD BE EXCELLENT CHOICE) MIGHT USEFULLY SEEK TO ENCOURAGE GUB TO IMPLEMENT ITS OWN SUGGESTION AND JOIN IN WORKING TOWARD A GATHRING OF SE ASIAN COUNTRIES AT WHICH QUIET PRESSURES FOR DURABLE INDOCHINA PEACE MIGHT EMERGE.  
LACEY

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 10 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PEACE, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** thigpegh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** BANGKOK 19403  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** thigpegh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 NOV 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by thigpegh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED SEA APPEAL TO NVN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, VN, BM, XC  
**To:** STATE INFO BANGKOK  
KUALA LUMPUR  
JAKARTA  
MANILA  
PHNOM PENH  
SINGAPORE  
SAIGON

VIENTIANE

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005